

**CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean – Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	M.Z. Bhatti MBE	Councillor	M. Fayyaz
"	Q. Chaudhry	"	A.W. Franks
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	Mrs D. M. Varley

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillors A.K. Bacon and R.C. McCulloch.

Officer: Mr W. Richards, Town Clerk.

Mr T. Brawn – Chesham & District Natural History Society

Mr P. Folly – Chesham Environmental Group

Mr H. Hardy – Hugo Hardy Architects

An apology for absence was received from Councillors P.J. Hudson and P.W. Yerrell. An apology for lateness was received from Miss E.A. Culverhouse.

65. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted that, as agreed, all previously stated Declaration of Interests remained unchanged from the first meeting of the administrative year or reported subsequently.

66. **MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

67. **CHESHAM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham Environmental Group held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

68. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

*Note: Councillor Miss Culverhouse arrived at the meeting at 8.10pm*

69. **CHESHAM MOOR GYM AND SWIM CENTRE UPDATE**

The Committee considered the officers' report on the current financial situation at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre facility.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the financial position and officers' update be noted.

70. **CO-OP FIELD MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee received the proposed Co-op Field Management Plan as devised by the Parks and Premises Manager.

The plan was welcomed by Members though Councillor Bacon highlighted that not all paths leading to housing estates were 'unofficial'.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Co-op Field Management Plan be adopted.

71. **WILDFLOWER SITES TRIAL**

Councillor Mrs MacBean introduced this item and thanked Mr Brawn for his excellent input into the scheme to date. Members then reviewed the current trial of the first phase of wildflower sites and generally deemed them a success. In respect to Berkhamstead Field/Meadow, Councillor Bacon enquired as to whether the area would be able to be cut appropriately by the Parks and Premises team. The Clerk replied that the purchase of new cutting equipment should make this much easier but the actual cutting period would still ultimately be determined by the weather.

The Committee then considered the proposed new wildflower sites and agreed that this phase two should be progressed.

It was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Year One trial areas are now agreed as a permanent, ongoing project.
2. That Berkhamstead Field is renamed Berkhamstead Field Community Meadow,
3. That the new trial sites for Phase Two are approved, subject to landowner permissions, and are reviewed after one year.

72. **WEEDKILING POLICY UPDATE**

Members noted the minutes of the recent meeting with officers from Chiltern District Council and Serco together with the Chairman of this Committee, the Town Clerk and the Parks and Premises Manager. It was agreed that joined up working by the local authorities on weed spraying and removal appeared very beneficial and productive.

On behalf of Chesham in Bloom, Councillor Fayyaz enquired as to whether an additional spraying round could be facilitated in early June but it was felt that anything other than two sprays a year would be unduly onerous on staff and the best spraying times were in early spring and August.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the weed killing update be noted and welcomed.

73. **FUTURE COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR TOWN TWINNING**

The Committee considered the notes of the Twinning Working Party meetings and its recommendations thereof. Members agreed broadly that the Council should continue to support civic visits from the Mayors of twin towns even though the Chesham Town Twinning Association was currently being wound up.

It was

**RESOLVED**

1. The Committee agrees to support in principle the concept of supporting visits from twinning Mayors and their support team at a cost of around £1,000 every three years.
2. That the reception for the International Weekend on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 be supported up to an amount of £150.
3. That the Committee considers possible further recommendations on the wider support for twinning following investigations on the viability and desirability of this by the Working Party.

74. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

It was moved by the Chairman and

**RESOLVED**

that the public and the Press, save for Mr Hugo Hardy, be excluded from the following item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Access to Meetings) Act 1960, as matters which are considered to be confidential are about to be discussed.

75. **POSSIBLE EXTENSION TO THE GYM AND SWIM CENTRE**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hardy to the meeting to present his vision for the possible extension to the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre as previously commissioned by this Committee.

Mr Hardy then outlined his proposals for the centre, focusing on increasing the gym space and developing the community aspect of the building. His proposals were generally well-received but it was agreed the decision whether to progress the designs to the next stage, in the form of commissioning a Quantity Surveyor to price up the proposals, should be agreed at full Council after Members of this Committee had a chance to digest the plans and the cost of said Quantity Surveyor was known.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the proposal to commission a Quantity Surveyor to price up the architect's designs been determined at full Council.

*Note: Mr Hardy then left the meeting.*

76. **GRASS-CUTTING IN CHESHAM CEMETERY**

The grass-cutting contract for the Cemetery with the submitted quotations were considered by the Committee.

It was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the continuation of the current contractor for 2018/19 be approved.
2. That the contractor be offered a further two years' contract for 2019/20 and 2020/21 at an index linked increase based on the Consumer Price Index based upon the figure quoted at the meeting.

77. **BUNTING IN THE TOWN CENTRE**

Members considered the different proposals to purchase and display bunting within the Town Centre to celebrate the upcoming Royal Weddings and to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the quotation provide rectangular bunting for The Broadway be accepted.

78. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.